

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended). A device for clamping and ablating cardiac tissue comprising:

a first handle member;

a second handle member;

first and second jaws associated with the first and second handle members, respectively, the jaws being movable by the handle members between a first open position and a second clamped position, in which clamped position the portions of the first and second jaws are being substantially parallel to each other in the clamped position, ~~at least portions of the being and~~ parallel through a range of tissue clamping spacing, such portion of each jaw including a clamping surface having a width;

a first elongated electrode extending along the clamping surface of the first jaw and forming a part thereof, the first elongated electrode having a tissue contacting portion which has a length and a width, the clamping surface including non-conductive portions disposed on each side of the tissue contacting portion of the first electrode, the width of the clamping surface exclusive of the width of the tissue contacting portion of the first electrode being wider than the width of the tissue contacting portion;

a second elongated electrode extending along the clamping surface of the second jaw and forming a part thereof, the second elongated electrode having a tissue

contacting portion which has a length and a width, the clamping surface including non-conductive portions disposed on each side of the tissue contacting portion of the second electrode, the width of the clamping surface exclusive of the width of the tissue contacting portion of the second electrode being wider than the width of the tissue contacting portion;

the tissue contacting portions of the first and second electrodes being substantially directly opposed to other along at least part of their lengths ~~in face-to-face relationship~~ and being adapted to be connected to an RF energy source so that, when activated, the first and second electrodes are of opposite polarity and are operable to create a line of ablation therebetween narrower than the width of the clamping surface.

2. (Previously Presented). The device of claim 1 wherein the parallel jaws are spaced apart between approximately 1 to 15 mm when in the clamped position.

3. (Currently Amended). A tissue grasping apparatus comprising:
first and second parallel grasping jaws, the grasping jaws being relatively moveable between open and closed positions, portions of the jaws being substantially parallel to each other when in the closed position and at least portions of the jaws being parallel to each other through a range of clamping spacing; each jaw including an elongated electrode and a clamping surface on such portion in face-to-face relation with the electrode and clamping surface of the other jaw; each clamping surface having a width and including non-conductive portions; each elongated electrode extending along the clamping surface and forming a part thereof, and each elongated electrode having a tissue contacting portion which has a length and a width; the width of each clamping surface exclusive of the width of the tissue contacting portion of the respective electrode

being wider than the width of the tissue contacting portion; the tissue contacting portion of the electrodes ~~each-electrode~~ being substantially directly opposed to each other along at least part of their lengths and flanked by the non-conductive portions of the respective clamping surface; the face-to-face electrodes being of opposite polarity and connectible to a power source for providing an electrical current to the electrodes so that, when activated, the first and second electrodes are operable to create a line of ablation therebetween narrower than the width of the clamping surface.

4. (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the parallel grasping jaws spaced apart between approximately 1 to 15 mm when in the closed position.

5. (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the clamping surfaces of the jaws comprise insulating material.

6. (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 1 in which the each electrode is generally centrally located relative to the width of the respective clamping surface.

7. (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 3 in which each electrode is generally centrally located relative to the width of the respective clamping surface.